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DISCOVER CURF MICRODATA

These web pages are your one-stop shop for everything you need to know about ABS CURF microdata including what's available, what's coming soon, how CURFs are accessible, how to apply for access, and more. The latest news about CURFs is shown in [What's New](#). It also includes information on the most recent [CURE Newsletters](#).

Please use the navigator at left to make your way around the CURF Microdata web pages.

Contact us at microdata.access@abs.gov.au or phone, mail or fax us. Our [CURE Contacts](#) page has the details.

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CURF: What's New

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Important Update - Innovation in Australian Business (2003) Expanded CURF : Specific conditions of use

There are special conditions surrounding the use of this CURF. As the Innovation CURF presents business rather than population survey data, the output for each job run using this CURF will be released as 'Keep Secure'. Users should refer to the [Technical Manual](#) for details. Please note that a three business day turn around will be in operation for the clearance of 'keep secure' output for general release.

Clients can request their 'Keep Secure' output be considered for 'General Release' by emailing radl@abs.gov.au.



Introducing Kim Farley-Larmour

Kim is the new Director of the ABS Microdata Access Strategies Section (MASS). She was previously the manager of our Library Extension Program (LEP) and has worked in other Commonwealth agencies.



The winner of the 100th CURF release is...

The General Social Survey (2006) Basic and Expanded CURF is now available and is proving popular with researchers. This is the 100th CURF released by the ABS.



Household Expenditure Survey CURF releases

Expected to be released in August this year - Household Expenditure Survey and Survey of Incoming and Housing (2003-04), 2nd Edition, Basic and Expanded CURF; and Household Expenditure Survey (1998-99), Third Edition, Basic CURF

Microdata Usage Graphs

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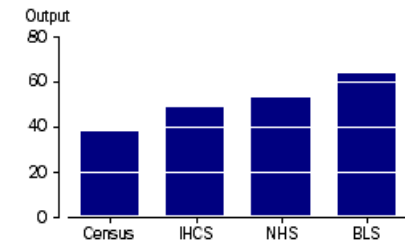
MICRODATA USAGE GRAPHS



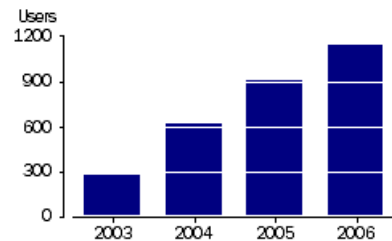
These Microdata Usage Graphs highlight trends for the period of January 2003 to December 2006. Click on the graphs for related Confidentialised Unit Record File (CURF) or Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL) information.

[Table version](#)

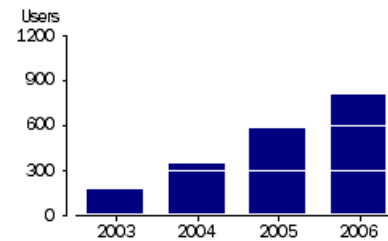
CURFS THAT GENERATED THE MOST PUBLISHED OUTPUT BY RESEARCHERS



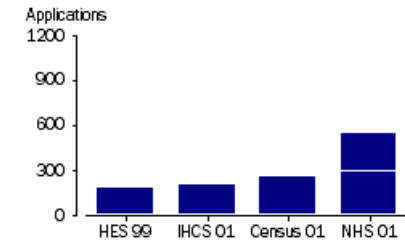
NUMBER OF CURF USERS



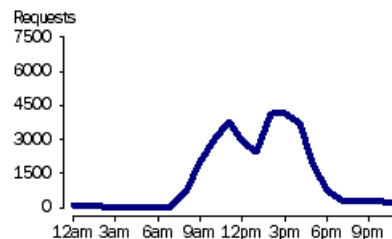
NUMBER OF RADL USERS



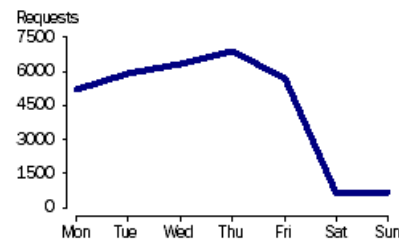
MOST REQUESTED CURFS BY INDIVIDUAL USERS



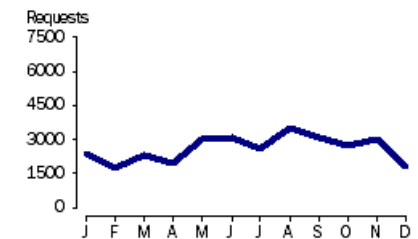
RADL REQUESTS BY HOUR



RADL REQUESTS BY DAY



RADL REQUESTS BY MONTH



Notes:

Census - All Census - Household Sample File CURFs (1981, 1986, 1991, 1996, 2001)
IHCS - All Income and Housing Costs Surveys (1990, 1994-95, 1995-96, 1996-97, 1997-98, 1999-00, 2000-01, 2002-03)
NHS - All National Health Survey CURFs (1977-78, 1983, 1989-90, 1995, 2001, 2004-05, Indigenous 2001)
BLS - Business Longitudinal Survey (1994-98)
HES 99 - Household Expenditure Survey (1998-99)
IHCS 01 - Income and Housing Costs Survey (2000-01)
Census 01 - Census 2001 - Household Sample File (2001)
NHS 01 - National Health Survey (2001)
Output refers to published research by individuals using CURFs
All time references are based on Canberra Time

This page first published 30 September 2007

Table Version of Microdata Usage Graphs



Graph version

CURFS THAT GENERATED THE MOST PUBLISHED OUTPUT BY RESEARCHERS

CURFs	Census Income and Housing Costs Survey	National Health Survey	Business Longitudinal Survey	
Publications	38	49	53	64

Published research using CURF Microdata page

NUMBER OF CURF USERS

Year	2004	2005	2006	2007
Users	618	905	1143	1419

NUMBER OF RADL USERS

Year	2004	2005	2006	2007
Users	351	585	814	1083

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MOST REQUESTED CURFS BY INDIVIDUAL USERS

CURF	National Health Survey (2004-05)	Income and Housing Costs Survey (2000-01)	Census 2001 - Household Sample File (2001)	National Health Survey (2001)
Applications	229	256	304	656

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RADL REQUESTS BY HOUR

Time	12am	1am	2am	3am	4am	5am	6am	7am	8am	9am	10am	11am
Requests	144	72	50	28	20	14	27	125	1039	3045	4749	5935
Time	12pm	1pm	2pm	3pm	4pm	5pm	6pm	7pm	8pm	9pm	10pm	11pm
Requests	5152	4361	6429	6543	6039	3393	1519	660	469	502	465	255

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RADL REQUESTS BY DAY

Day	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Requests	8769	9953	10641	10810	8661	1063	1138

RADL REQUESTS BY MONTH

Month	January	February	March	April	May	June
Requests	2378	1744	2328	1992	3027	3082
Month	July	August	September	October	November	December
Requests	2598	3508	3070	2742	3002	1803

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A Confidentialised Unit Record File (CURF) is a file of responses to an ABS survey that has had specific identifying information about a person or organisation confidentialised. Each person's or organisation's response is called a 'unit record' or 'microdata'.

CURF microdata is the most detailed statistical information available from the ABS and are used widely by universities, government and private sector researchers and analysts.

The community receives vital benefits from research conducted using this microdata. The ABS assists this by providing approved individuals with access to micro-level confidentialised data from a range of surveys for specific research purposes.

The ABS takes its responsibilities to protect the confidentiality of individuals' data very seriously. Such security is fundamental to the trust the Australian public has in the Bureau. The ABS ensures the confidentiality of all microdata made available on CURFs by implementing a number of confidentialisation techniques.

The most basic of these techniques involves removing all identifying information, such as names and addresses. Additionally, data items that are most likely to be used for identifying unit records are only released in broad categories. More advanced confidentialisation occurs through checking the CURFs for records with uncommon combinations of responses. These records may be altered slightly to ensure individuals cannot be identified.

After the microdata is confidentialised, CURFs are released to authorised clients for approved purposes of statistical analysis and policy research. All clients are bound by legal and other obligations, with regular audits carried out to ensure compliance. Penalties, usually relating to access, will apply if a breach occurs, however the ABS has the option to seek legal redress should the circumstances warrant such action.

Individuals or organisations wishing to have access to CURFs must apply for approval by the Australian Statistician. Once approved, access to CURF microdata is granted via CDROM dispatched to the organisation, or through the [Remote Access Data Laboratory \(RADL\)](#) available through the ABS website. Researchers and analysts are able to run statistical queries on the CURF microdata using SAS, SPSS or Stata software.

Over 100 CURF microdata files are available and come from a wide range of ABS household and labour surveys. Links in the navigator on the left of your screen will take you to lists of available CURFs and expected future CURF releases.

Related Links:

[Responsible Access to ABS CURFs Training Manual](#)

[CURF Access Modes & Level of Detail](#)

[Remote Access Data Laboratory \(RADL\) User Guide](#)

(cat. no. 1406.0.55.002)

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AVAILABLE CURFs

Updated 12 June 2007

All Basic CURF Microdata is available on CD-ROM.

Basic CURF Microdata marked with an * is also available via the ABS Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL).

Expanded CURF Microdata is only available via the ABS Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL).

CURFs can also be made available under controlled conditions via the ABS Site Data Laboratory (ABSDL).

CURF MICRODATA CONTENT

Information about the detail and contents of each CURFs are provided via the links in the list below. Click on the title of the CURF you are interested in for details.

Information in these links includes summaries of the CURF such as the number of confidentialised individual statistical records, including their characteristics (such as geographic, socio-demographic, employment, etc.). More detailed content information is also linked in the Technical Manual/Information Paper for each CURF.

Title (Year of Survey) and Level of Detail (Click on title to see description of CURF)

[Aspects of Literacy](#) (1996) Basic*

[Australian Housing Survey](#) (1994) Basic*

[Australian Housing Survey](#) (1999) Basic*

[Australians' Employment and Unemployment Patterns](#) (1994-97) Basic* and Expanded

[Business Longitudinal Survey](#) (1994-98) Basic*

[Census 1981 - Household Sample File](#) (1981) Basic*

[Census 1986 - Household Sample File](#) (State/Territory or Section of State) (1986) Basic*

[Census 1991 - Household Sample File](#) (1991) Basic*

[Census 1996 - Household Sample File](#) (1996) Basic*

[Census 2001 - Household Sample File](#) (2001) Basic* and Expanded

[Child Care Arrangements Survey](#) (1984) Basic

[Child Care Survey \(1993\)](#) Basic*

[Child Care Survey \(1996\)](#) Basic*

[Child Care Survey \(1999\)](#) Basic* and Expanded

[Child Care Survey \(2002\)](#) Expanded

[Child Care Survey \(2005\)](#) Expanded

[Disability, Ageing and Carers \(1993\)](#) Basic*

[Disability, Ageing and Carers \(1998\)](#) Basic*

[Disability, Ageing and Carers \(2003\)](#) Basic*

[Domiciliary Services, Victoria](#) (1986) Basic*

[Education and Training Experience \(1989\)](#) Basic How teachers get there....

[Education and Training Experience \(1993\)](#) Basic

[Education and Training Experience \(1997\)](#) Basic

[Education and Training \(2001\)](#) Basic

Education and Training_(2005) Basic* and Expanded
Education and Work (2001) Basic*
Education and Work (2003) Basic*
Education and Work (2005) Basic*
Families in Australia (1992) Basic
Family Characteristics Survey (2003) Expanded
Forms of Employment (1998) Basic*
General Social Survey (2002) Basic* and Expanded
General Social Survey (2006) Basic* and Expanded
Giving to Charities Population Survey Monitor (1997) Basic
Household Expenditure Survey (1975-76) Basic*
Household Expenditure Survey (1984) Basic*
Household Expenditure Survey (1988-89) Basic*
Household Expenditure Survey (1993-94) Basic*
Household Expenditure Survey Second Edition (1998-99) Basic*
Household Expenditure Survey and the Survey of Income and Housing (HES/SIH) (2003-04) Basic* and Expanded
Income and Housing Survey (1981-82) Basic*
Income Distribution Survey (1986) Basic*
Income and Housing Costs Survey (1990) Basic*
Income and Housing Costs Survey (1994-95) Basic*
Income and Housing Costs Survey (1995-96) Basic*
Income and Housing Costs Survey (1996-97) Basic*
Income and Housing Costs Survey (1997-98) Basic*
Income and Housing Costs Survey (1999-00) Basic*
Income and Housing Costs Survey (2000-01) Basic* and Expanded
Income and Housing Survey (2002-03) Basic* and Expanded
Income and Housing Survey and the Household Expenditure Survey (HES/SIH) (2003-04) Basic* and Expanded
Labour Force Survey and Employee Earnings, Benefits and Trade Union Membership (August 2004) Basic*
Labour Force Survey and Employee Earnings, Benefits and Trade Union Membership, Australia (2006) Basic* and Expanded
Labour Mobility (1984) Basic*
Labour Mobility (1991) Basic*
Labour Mobility (1994) Basic*
Labour Mobility (2006) Basic*
Mental Health and Wellbeing of Adults, Australia, Second Revised (1997) Basic*
Mental Health and Wellbeing of Adults, Western Australia (1997) Basic
Multi Purpose Household Survey (2004-05) Expanded
Multi Purpose Household Survey (2005-06) Expanded
National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (2004-05) Expanded
National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey (1994) Basic* and Expanded
National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (2002) Expanded
National Crime and Safety Survey (2002) Expanded
National Crime and Safety Survey (2005) Expanded
National Health Survey (1977-78) Basic*
National Health Survey (1983) Basic*
National Health Survey (1989-90) Basic*
National Health Survey (1995) Basic*
National Health Survey (2001) Basic* and Expanded
National Health Survey (2004-05) Basic* and Expanded
National Health Survey, Indigenous (2001) Expanded
National Nutrition Survey (1995) Basic*

Personal Safety Survey (2005)	Expanded
Pregnancy and Employment Transitions (2005)	Expanded
Rental Investors' Survey (1993)	Basic*
Rental Investors' Survey (1997)	Basic*
Rental Tenants Survey (1994)	Basic*
Superannuation and Employment Arrangements Survey (2000)	Expanded
Time Use Survey (1992)	Basic*
Time Use Survey (1997)	Basic* and Expanded
Voluntary Work Survey (2000)	Basic*
Women's Safety Survey (1996)	Basic*

RELATED LINKS:

[List of Expected CURFs](#)

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Updated 20 June 2007

The list below includes CURFs currently intended for release. **Please note** that release dates are indicative only.

Anticipating CURF release

You may anticipate the release of a CURF by submitting a completed Individual User Application/Undertaking and Request For Access To A CURF form (see link below) to enable early processing for access on the day of release. Please note that we will also need your organisational 'CEO' to submit a Responsible Officer CURF Undertaking (see link below) if your organisation has not previously accessed an ABS CURF.

These Undertakings are available on the [CURF Application and Undertaking Forms](#) web page.

Availability

Basic CURFs are available on CD-ROM, and via the Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL) and within the ABS Site Data Laboratory (ABSDL). Please see the [CURF Access Modes and Level of Detail](#) web page for further information. Expanded CURFs are not available on CD-ROM.

CURF Title and Reference Period	Indicative release date at 16 July 2007
Household Expenditure Survey and Survey of Income and Housing (2003-04), 2nd Edition, Basic and Expanded CURF	2 August 2007
Household Expenditure Survey (1998-99), Third Edition, Basic CURF	2 August 2007
Innovation in Australian Business (2003) Expanded CURF	3 August 2007
Income and Housing Survey (2005-06) Basic and Expanded CURF	16 August 2007
Time Use Survey (2006) Basic and Expanded CURF	December 2007
Adult Literacy and Lifeskills (2006) Basic and Expanded CURF	December 2007
Multi-Purpose Household Survey (2006-07) Expanded CURF	February 2008
Census 2006 CSF (previously known as Household Sample File (HSF) Basic (1%) CURF & Expanded (5%) CURF. For Information: 2006 Census Table Builder is expected to be released in December 2007 at the earliest. This product will enable registered users to build Census tables with full graphing and mapping functionality by remotely interrogating 100% of either the 2001 or 2006 Census Unit Record File(s).	March 2008

RELATED LINKS:

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Confidentialised Unit Record Files (CURFs) are released to authorised clients for approved purposes of statistical analysis and policy research.

The links below contain details of published research by individuals using CURFs.

CURF Title	Publications
Aspects of Literacy (1996)	Published Research
Australian Housing Survey (1994 and 1999)	Published Research
Australian's Employment and Unemployment Patterns (1994-97)	Published Research
Business Longitudinal Survey (1994-1998)	Published Research
Census - Household Sample File (1981, 1991, 1996, 2001)	Published Research
Child Care Survey (1993, 1996, 1999, 2002, 2005)	Published Research
Disability, Ageing and Carers Survey (1993, 1998, 2003)	Published Research
Domiciliary Services, Victoria (1986)	No publications available
Education and Training Experience (1989, 1993, 1997, 2001, 2005)	Published Research
Families in Australia (1992)	No publications available
Family Characteristics Survey (2003)	No publications available
Forms of Employment (1998)	Published Research
General Social Survey (2002)	Published Research
Giving to Charities Population Survey Monitor (1997)	No publications available
Household Expenditure Survey (1975-76, 1984, 1988-89, 1993-94, 1998-99)	Published Research
Household Expenditure Survey and the Survey of Income and Housing (HES/SIH) (2003-04)	No publications available
Income Distribution Survey (1986)	Published Research
Income and Housing Costs Survey (1990, 1994-95, 1995-96, 1996-97, 1997-98, 1999-00, 2000-01, 2002-03)	Published Research
Labour Force Survey and Employee Earnings, Benefits and Trade Union Membership (August 2004)	No publications available
Labour Mobility (1984, 1991, 1994)	Published Research
Mental Health and Wellbeing of Adults (Australia, 1997 and Western Australia, 1997)	Published Research
Multi Purpose Household Survey (2004-05)	No publications available
National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey (1994, Health Survey 2004-05, Social Survey 2002)	Published Research
National Crime and Safety Survey (2002, 2005)	No publications available
National Health Survey (1977-78, 1983, 1989-90, 1995, 2001, 2004-05, Indigenous 2001)	Published Research

National Nutrition Survey (1995)	Published Research
Personal Safety Survey (2005)	No publications available
Pregnancy and Employment Transitions (2005)	No publications available
Rental Investors' Survey (1993, 1997, 1994)	No publications available
Superannuation and Employment Arrangements Survey (2000)	No publications available
Time Use Survey (1992, 1997)	Published Research
Voluntary Work Survey (2000)	Published Research
Women's Safety Survey (1996)	No publications available

These have been created from information provided to the ABS by authorised users during their organisation's [Annual Renewal of CURE Access](#). The information enables researchers to understand the range of published research activities undertaken by individuals using CURFs.

For additional clarification on this information email curf.management@abs.gov.au

Related Links:

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Published Research - Aspects of Literacy, 1996

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Aspects of Literacy, 1996

This list of research activities using the Aspects of Literacy (1996) CURF has been created from information provided to the ABS by authorised users during their organisation's [Annual Renewal of CURF Access](#). The information enables researchers to understand the range of published research activities undertaken by individuals using CURFs. For additional clarification on this information email curf.management@abs.gov.au

Kok-Wee Ong (2002), The Effect of Literacy on Earnings in Australia, University of New South Wales School of Economics Honours Thesis September 2002

Miller, P.W, Chiswick, B.R. & Lee Y.L. (2003) Schooling, Literacy, Numeracy and Labour Market Success, Economic Record, vol. 79, iss. 245, pp.165-181

Related Links:

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Australian Housing Survey, 1994, 1999

This list of research activities using the Australian Housing Survey (1994, 1999) CURF has been created from information provided to the ABS by authorised users during their organisation's [Annual Renewal of CURF Access](#). The information enables researchers to understand the range of published research activities undertaken by individuals using CURFs. For additional clarification on this information email curf.management@abs.gov.au

Flatau, Wood, and Watson (2002), A Microsimulation Model of the Australian Housing Market, Housing and Labour Markets.

Orzechowska, E, (2004), PhD thesis, examining Australia's labour force ageing, with particular reference to impact of the age structural changes on employment, and length of worklife. Australian National University, Canberra

Wulff, M. (2004) 'Shrinking households, smaller dwellings? Housing and the single-person households, 1981-2001', International Sociological Association, Adequate and Affordable Housing for All: Research, Policy, Practice Metro Hall, Toronto, June 24-27, 2004.

Wulff, M. (2004) 'The rise in one person households: the housing solution for the Australian compact city?', Paper presented at the Housing Studies Association Conference, Planning and Housing: Policy and Practice, Belfast, Northern Ireland, 9th-10th September 2004.

Wulff, M., Healy, E. and Reynolds, M., (2004) 'Why don't small households live in small dwellings? – disentangling a planning dilemma', People and Place, vol. 12, no. 1, pp. 58-71, 2004.

Yates, J. (2003) 'A Distributional Analysis of the Impact of Direct and Indirect Housing Assistance', Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute Final Report, April 2003

Yates, J. (2002) 'A Distributional Analysis of the Impact of Direct and Indirect Housing Assistance'. Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute Positioning Paper, August 2002

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Published Research - Australians' Employment and Unemployment Patterns, 1994-97

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This list of research activities using the Australians' Employment and Unemployment Patterns (1994-97) CURF has been created from information provided to the ABS by authorised users during their organisation's [Annual Renewal of CURF Access](#). The information enables researchers to understand the range of published research activities undertaken by individuals using CURFs. For additional clarification on this information email curf.management@abs.gov.au

The incidence and consequence of worker displacement in Australia, Australian Economic Papers.

An exploration of marginal attachment to the Australian labour market, calculations for a Discussion Paper.

Chalmers, J. & Kalb, G. (2001), Moving unemployment to permanent employment: could a casual job accelerate the transition? Australian Economic Review, 34(4), p 415-436

Cuthbert, D, (2004) Labour Market Outcomes of Australians, PhD thesis, Monash University, Victoria

Dockery, A.M. & Webster E.M. (2002) Long-term unemployment and work deprived individuals: issues and policies, CEPR Discussion Paper, 445, ANU.

Gray, M.C. and Hunter, B.H. 'The labour market dynamics of Indigenous Australians', Journal of Sociology (Accepted May 2005)

Gray, M.C. and Hunter, B.H. 'The effectiveness of Indigenous job search strategies', Economic Record (Accepted June 2005)

Gray, M.C., Heath, A. and Hunter, B.H. 2005 'The labour force dynamics of the marginally attached', Australian Economic Papers, 44(1): 1-44

Gray, M.C., Heath, A. and Hunter, B.H. 2002. 'An exploration of marginal attachment to the Australian labour market', Reserve Bank Research Discussion Paper No. 2002/7, RBA, Sydney (available on-line at <http://www.rba.gov.au/>).

Gray, M.C. and Hunter, B.H. 2000. 'An Analysis of Data from the Longitudinal Survey of ATSI Job Seekers: Job Search Behaviour', Report to the Department of Employment, Workplace Relations and Small Business, CAEPR, ANU, Canberra.

Gray, M.C. and Hunter, B.H. 2004. 'Patterns of Indigenous job search activity': CAEPR Discussion Paper No 263, CAEPR, ANU, Canberra.

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ABS enables access to CURF data at three levels of detail. Depending on the detail, CURFs are available via the following modes of access:

- CD-ROM - CURF microdata supplied to client on a compact disc.
- ABS Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL) - CURF microdata available for querying in batch mode via a secure internet-based service.
- ABS Site Data Laboratory (ABSDL) - CURF microdata available for interactive access via a secure data query service on ABS premises under ABS supervision (subject to availability).

For each of the three modes of accessing ABS CURFs, the potential level of data detail available is directly proportional to the level of security the ABS has over the release of output. This is described in the table below:

	CD-ROM (Basic)	Remote Access Data Laboratory (Basic & Expanded)	ABS Site Data Laboratory (Specialist)
Level of data detail	Least detailed	More detailed	Most detailed
Benefits	Users can work unrestricted on their own computers.	Access available from any computer with internet access. More detailed data analysis possible. SAS, Stata and SPSS software provided within system.	High level of data analysis possible. SAS, Stata and SPSS software provided within system. System may allow for integration of other datasets.
Restrictions	Users bound by legal undertaking.	Users bound by legal undertaking. Unit records remain within ABS IT environment. Restrictions apply to the nature of queries, and to the nature and size of outputs. User activity is monitored.	Users bound by legal undertaking. Unit records remain within ABS IT environment. Restrictions apply to the nature of queries, and to the nature and size of outputs. User activity is monitored. Only available on ABS premises under ABS supervision.

Not all CURFs are available in all three levels of detail or all three access modes.

- The majority of CURFs produced before 2003 are only available at the Basic level on CD-ROM or via the RADL.
- From 2003, most CURFs have been produced at both the Basic and Expanded level.
- Some CURFs will only be produced at the Basic level and be available on CD-ROM or via the RADL.
- Some CURFs will only be produced at the Expanded or Specialist level and will only be available via the RADL or ABSDL respectively, i.e. there will be no Basic CD-ROM version.

The [List of Available CURFs and Contents](#) page shows the level of detail available for each CURF.

All Basic CURFs accessed via the RADL service are subject to the same restrictions applied to Expanded CURFs.

ABSDL Specialist CURFs may only be available on a case by case basis. Prior to submitting an application to access a Specialist CURF please contact microdata.access@abs.gov.au.

Related Links:

[Responsible Access to ABS CURFs Training Manual](#)

[Remote Access Data Laboratory \(RADL\)](#)

[Remote Access Data Laboratory \(RADL\) User Guide](#) (cat.no. 1406.0.55.002)

[Managing ABS Confidential Unit Record Files \(CURFs\): A Step](#)

[by Step Guide \(Cat.no 1406.0.55.004\)](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions About CURFs](#)

[About the ABS Site Data Laboratory \(ABSDL\)](#)

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WHAT IS THE RADL?

The RADL provides access to more detailed CURF data than can be made available on CD-ROM and is a secure on-line data query service that clients can access via the ABS web site. Authorised users submit queries in SAS, Stata or SPSS against CURFs that are kept within the ABS environment via the RADL web interface. The results of the queries are checked for confidentiality then, made available to the users via their desktops. Because the CURFs are kept within the ABS environment, the ABS is able to release more detailed CURF data via the RADL than can be made available on CD-ROM.

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ASSUMED KNOWLEDGE OF RADL USERS

RADL users are expected to know:

- which analytical language they are using (SAS, Stata or SPSS), and how to write programs in it;
- how to use a zip program (WinZip or equivalent programs); and
- how to use an internet browser.

The ABS assumes user knowledge of SAS, SPSS and Stata for code creation and does not offer a code advisory service. ABS provides SAS, SPSS and Stata test files for users to download and pre-check their code prior to submission in RADL.

If RADL users encounter any problems accessing or using the RADL, please email the RADL Administrator at radl@abs.gov.au.

Documentation that is mandatory for users to familiarise themselves with prior to using CURFs on RADL are:

- Technical/Information papers relating to each CURF, located in the RADL Help and
- [Remote Access Data Laboratory \(RADL\) User Guide](#) (cat.no. 1406.0.55.002 revised version 4, March 2006).

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CURFs THAT CAN BE ACCESSED VIA THE RADL

Most Basic CURFs that are currently available on CD-ROM can also be accessed via the RADL. Expanded CURFs (containing more detailed data) from the following surveys can only be accessed via the RADL:

For detailed information about which CURFs are available on CD-ROM and via the RADL, please see the [List of Available CURFs](#) that is regularly updated.

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HOW TO ACCESS CURFs VIA THE RADL

To access a CURF via the RADL, users must:

- read the [Responsible Access to ABS CURFs Training Manual](#); and
- complete a [CURF Application and Undertaking Form](#) and forward it to your organisation's [CURF Contact Officer](#), and
- read the [Remote Access Data Laboratory \(RADL\) User Guide](#) (cat.no. 1406.0.55.002).

Organisations' CURF contact officers submit users' Application and Undertaking forms to the ABS for approval. Upon approval the ABS will send the user an email containing a user name and a letter containing a password, both of which are required to log in to the RADL.

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GETTING STARTED WITH THE RADL

Before logging in to the RADL, please refer to the [Remote Access Data Laboratory \(RADL\) User Guide](#) (cat.no. 1406.0.55.002) and check your program with the CURF specific test files available in the RADL Help pages.

When you first log in to the RADL, please:

1. Read the home page information;
2. Read the RADL Alerts;
3. Click on the RADL Help link on the navigator panel on the left hand side of the page;
4. Under the heading 'Information for all RADL Users', read the general information for SAS, Stata or SPSS users (depending on which statistical query language you prefer to use) and the 'Getting Started with the ABS Remote Access Data Laboratory' document;
5. Under the heading 'CURF Documentation', read all the documentation related to the CURF you are going to use, including the CURF specific Technical/Information Paper; and
6. Before you submit your first job in RADL, ensure you have run the job against the CURF test files, that are available under the CURF name under the CURF Documentation heading.

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CONTACT THE RADL ADMINISTRATOR

If you are having difficulty using the RADL, or have RADL-specific enquiries, please email: radl@abs.gov.au

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MORE INFORMATION ABOUT CURFs

More information about CURFs, including pricing and how to apply, is available on the [Applying for CURF Microdata](#) page.

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LOG IN TO THE RADL (FOR APPROVED USERS ONLY)

If you have been advised by ABS that you have access to the RADL, you may log in to the RADL at any time using your personal username and password.

Please [click here to log in to the RADL](#).

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RELATED LINKS:

[Remote Access Data Laboratory \(RADL\) User Guide](#) (cat.no. 1406.0.55.002)

[Responsible Access to ABS CURFs Training Manual](#)

[Obligations of CURF Users](#)

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Access to CURF microdata is tightly regulated by the ABS as CURFs contain the most detailed statistical information available. The ABS considers the protection of respondent privacy as vitally important and goes to great lengths to maintain it by confidentialising all microdata. More information about microdata confidentiality is available on the [What is CURF Microdata?](#) page.

To ensure microdata confidentiality is maintained, ABS requires users to submit signed legal undertakings explaining their proposed statistical use. Applications and undertakings are processed by ABS before access is granted to CURFs in any of the three access modes (CD-ROM, RADL and ABSDL). [Penalties for breaching CURF undertakings](#) are applicable if an individual or organisation fails in their duty to meet their [obligations as a CURF user](#).

In general, access to CURF Microdata, either via the RADL, ABSDL or on CD-ROM, requires:

- Reading the [Managing ABS Confidentialised Unit Record Files \(CURFs\): A Step by Step Guide](#)
- An [Individual User Undertaking \(IUU1\)](#), from the CURF user, countersigned by the organisation's Contact Officer.
NOTE: this form is required only if you do not currently have access to CURFs in the organisation for which you are working.
- A [Request to Access a CURF form \(REQ1\)](#), including contact details, and indicating which CURF(s) is requested and what type of access is required. If more than 5 CURFs are required, a REQ2 form must be attached.
- Individual users must provide details of their statistical purpose and intended outputs in using CURF data on the REQ1 Form.
- Exceptions to the above are described below.

There are three exceptions to the above rule. These apply if:

1. it is the first time that an organisation has applied to access CURF Microdata
2. there is a new Responsible Officer for an organisation
3. there will be users who are not employed by the organisation but who will be accessing CURF microdata (ie Consultant applicants).

More information about how to apply in each of these three cases follows.

Exceptions 1 and 2: New Organisations or New Responsible Officers

If you are from an organisation who has never been approved by ABS to access CURFs, or if your Responsible Officer has changed, a [Responsible Officer Undertaking \(ROU1\)](#) from the University or Organisation or is required to accompany the Individual User Undertaking (IUU1).

A Responsible Officer must be a Vice-Chancellor, Deputy Vice-Chancellor or Pro Vice-Chancellor (for Universities), the Secretary of Department (or equivalent) (for government departments), the CEO, Managing Director or company secretary (for private organisations).

Approval for an organisation's access must be granted by the Australian Statistician.

Exception 3: Consultant Applications

At times organisations may engage an external consultant to undertake a research project. When this occurs, to ensure that the organisation complies with ABS requirements regarding CURF access, the organisation must:

- a. provide the ABS with a letter introducing the consultant(s) and detailing the nature of the project and its commencement and end dates, and
- b. pay the ABS an administration fee of \$435 per consultancy project.

A sample CURF Consultancy Introductory Letter (CON2) is available on the [CURF Application and Undertaking Forms](#) page.

If the organisation has been approved to use CURFs, the consultant(s) doing the work must complete and submit a [CURF Consultancy Undertaking Form \(CON1\)](#) to the ABS. Upon approval, the ABS will provide the consultant(s) with access to required CURFs on CD-ROM

and/or via the RADL.

Related Links:

<u>Managing ABS CURFs: a Step by Step Guide</u>	<u>Responsible Access to ABS CURFs Training Manual</u>
<u>CURF Application & Undertaking Forms</u>	<u>Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL) User Guide</u>
<u>Penalties for Breaching the CURF Undertaking</u>	<u>CURF Responsible & Contact Officers</u>
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[Current PDF Application and Undertaking Forms](#)

Only current CURF application forms downloaded from this page can be accepted by ABS.

Before applying for CURF Microdata refer to the [Managing ABS Confidentialised Unit Record Files \(CURFs\): A Step by Step Guide \(cat.no. 1406.0.55.004\)](#) for information on Roles and Responsibilities and how to apply for CURF access.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER UNDERTAKING

A Responsible Officer Undertaking (ROU1) is required from each organisation to enable the organisation to access CURFs, and to support Individual User access to CURFs.

The Responsible Officer Undertaking (ROU1) is required to be completed once and then will be renewed on an annual basis determined by the ABS. No additional Responsible Officer Undertaking (ROU1) is required for an organisation to access new CURFs not previously approved, whilst the (ROU1) is current.

If a new Responsible Officer is appointed a new Undertaking (ROU1) must be completed and submitted to the ABS.

See the current list of [CURF Responsible and Contact Officers](#) here.

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CONSULTANT UNDERTAKING

A CURF Consultant Undertaking (CON1) is required from each user if they have been requested by another organisation to access a CURF(s). In addition, the sponsoring organisation needs to complete the Request To Access A CURF (REQ1) if they do not already have the CURF(s) required for the Consultancy and, if more than 5 CURFs are required, a REQ2. The organisation engaging their services also needs to supply a letter introducing the consultant(s) and detailing the nature of the project and its commencement and end dates, and must pay the ABS an administration fee of \$435 per consultancy project.

Any subsequent request from the consultant(s) to access CURFs as part of the same project will need to be accompanied by a letter introducing the consultant(s). The administration fee of \$435 will not apply, however, the consultant(s) are still required to submit a CURF Consultant Undertaking (CON1).

The [Frequently Asked Questions About CURFs - Applying for CURFs](#) page may answer any further questions you have.

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INDIVIDUAL UNDERTAKING

An Individual Undertaking (IUU1) is required from each Individual the first time they apply to access a CURF(s). In addition, an individual needs to complete the Request To Access A CURF (REQ1 and, if more than 5 CURFs are required, a REQ2).

Any subsequent request to access a CURF will not need to be accompanied by an Individual Undertaking (IUU1), but will still require the submission of the Request To Access A CURF (REQ1 and, if required, a REQ2).

If an individual leaves an organisation and joins a new one they must repeat this process in the new organisation.

The [Frequently Asked Questions About CURFs - Applying for CURFs](#) page may answer any further questions you have.

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CURRENT PDF APPLICATION AND UNDERTAKING FORMS

The PDF documents in the below table are the latest Application and Undertaking forms for downloading. Please do not use earlier versions as they will not be accepted.

These documents are available in Acrobat format:

[If you do not have reader software, please click here.](#)

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Request for access to a CURF Form (REQ1)



CURF Request for Access to a CURF - (REQ1) April 2007.pdf (174Kb)

Request for access to a CURF Form (REQ2)

This Form is for use if more than five CURFs are required.



CURF Request for Access to Additional CURFS - (REQ2) April 2007.pdf (110Kb)

CURF Responsible Officer Undertaking Form (ROU1)



CURF Responsible Officer Undertaking - (ROU1) April 2007.pdf (169 Kb)

CURF Individual User Undertaking Form (IUU1)



CURF Individual User Undertaking - (IUU1) April 2007.pdf (171Kb)

CURF Consultant Undertaking Form (CON1)



CURF Consultant Undertaking (CON1) - April 2007.pdf (160Kb)

CURF Consultant introductory letter (CON2)



CURF Consultant Introductory Letter (CON2) April 2007.rtf (17Kb)

Responsible Access to CURFs Training Manual



Responsible Access to ABS CURFs Training Manual_Mar05.pdf (365Kb)

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Frequently Asked Questions

All organisations applying for CURFs are required to appoint a Contact Officer to directly manage all CURF access by the organisation's users. A full description of the Contact Officer's role is available on the [Frequently Asked Questions - Applying for CURFs](#) page.

The Contact Officer manages the organisation's business relationship with ABS including: advising individuals if the organisation has access to a specified CURF; counter-signing and submitting Applications/Undertakings to ABS; copying Basic CURFs on CD-ROM and monitoring use; returning unused CURFs to ABS; and managing the organisation's Annual Renewal process. More information about the responsibilities of the Contact Officer is provided in [Managing ABS Confidentialised Unit Record Files \(CURFs\): A Step by Step Guide](#).

If you have any queries about any of the above matters, please contact your organisation's Contact Officer, listed on the [CURF Responsible and Contact Officers](#) page.

Alternatively, if you have a query for ABS about accessing CURFs, or require more information about the ABS/AVCC CURF Agreement, please contact:

Email: microdata.access@abs.gov.au

Phone: 02 6252 7714

Fax: 02 6252 8132

Address: Microdata Access Strategies Section
Information Management & Census Division
Locked Bag 10
Belconnen ACT 2617

Related Links:

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What is the ABS/AVCC CURF Agreement?

To support research and teaching in Australian universities the ABS has an Agreement with the Australian Vice Chancellors Committee (AVCC) to make available Confidentialised Unit Record Files (CURFs).

The agreement began in January 1999 and will continue until December 2007. There are currently 33 universities participating in the Agreement.

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CURFs for commercial use by Universities

CURFs obtained by university researchers under the ABS/AVCC CURF Agreement must not be used to support commercial or income generating projects, such as conducting research for an agency outside the university. However, CURFs can be purchased by universities at the current ABS list price to be used to support commercial or income generating projects. Please contact microdata.access@abs.gov.au if you are unsure whether your proposed use of a CURF is commercial or not.

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How to apply for a CURF under the ABS/AVCC CURF Agreement

Applying for CURFs under the AVCC Agreement is easy if your university is participating in the Agreement. Refer to the list of [ABS/AVCC Participating Universities](#). If it is, just apply to access as usual (using the IUU1 and REQ1 forms as appropriate) located in the list of [CURF Applications and Undertakings](#). Ensure you answer the question about applying under the AVCC Agreement on the REQ1 form.

If your university is not participating in the Agreement, please refer to [Frequently Asked Questions About CURFs - ABS/AVCC CURF Agreement](#) for details about how the university can enter the Agreement.

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Related Links:

[CURF Responsible and Contact Officers](#)

[Services for Universities](#)

[Managing ABS Confidentialised Unit Record Files \(CURFs\): A Step by Step Guide \(Cat.no 1406.0.55.004\)](#)

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The Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee (AVCC) and the ABS Agreement for Confidentialised Unit Record Files (CURFs) runs from 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2007 to enable universities that are members of the AVCC (see list below) to access ABS CURF. This Agreement supporting research and teaching, minimises the cost to each university through the AVCC sector subscription arrangement for teaching and research to support more informed decision making within the university sector, government and the community.

The following universities that are members of the AVCC all participate in the CURF Agreement:

University of Adelaide
Australian Catholic University
Australian National University
University of Canberra
Central Queensland University
Charles Darwin University
Charles Sturt University
Curtin University of Technology
Deakin University
Edith Cowan University
Flinders University
Griffith University
La Trobe University
Macquarie University
University of Melbourne
Monash University
Murdoch University
University of New England
University of New South Wales (includes Australian Defence Force Academy)
University of Newcastle
University of Queensland
Queensland University of Technology
RMIT University
University of South Australia
Southern Cross University
Swinburne University of Technology
University of Sydney
University of Tasmania
University of Technology, Sydney
Victoria University
University of Western Australia
University of Western Sydney
University of Wollongong

RELATED LINKS:

[Frequently Asked Questions About CURFs - ABS/AVCC CURF Agreement](#)

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CURFs for Commercial Use by Universities

Data accessed under the ABS/AVCC CURF Agreement can only be used for research and teaching purposes and may not be used for income generating or commercial consultancy. However, universities wishing to undertake commercial or income generating projects can purchase CURFs. For more information on purchasing CURFs contact microdata.access@abs.gov.au, or speak to your [contact officer](#).

Other ABS Services

Aside from the ABS/AVCC CURF Agreement which provides access to ABS microdata for teaching and research, ABS offers many other services to the staff and students of universities. More information about some of these is available through the following links.

[ABS Consultancy Services](#)

[ABS Library Extension Program](#)

[Contact ABS](#)

Related Links:

[Frequently Asked Questions - University Clients](#)

[CURF Responsible and Contact Officers](#)

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- In a University, the Responsible Officer must be a Vice-Chancellor, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Deputy Vice-Chancellor or University Registrar.
- In a Government Department, the Responsible Officer must be a Secretary of Department or equivalent head of organisation, as agreed with the ABS. In practice, this requires that a release to a Department or Authority must be signed by the Secretary of the Department or, in the case of a Government Authority, the equivalent Head of the Authority.
- In a private sector organisation, the Responsible Officer must be someone who has the same legal responsibility for the actions of the organisation as a Departmental Secretary does for a Department. This will usually be someone with the status of CEO, Company Secretary or Managing Director.

Note: * in the below table indicates that the Organisation is not a participant of the ABS/AVCC CURF Agreement.

Organisation	Responsible Officer	Contact Officer
Access Economics*	Mr Stephen Corcoran	Mr Stephen Corcoran (Director)
Australian Catholic University	Prof. John Coll	Ms Robina Bamforth (Manager, Office of Research)
Australian Council of Social Services*	Mr Gregor MacFie	Mr Peter Davidson (Senior Policy Officer)
Australian Institute of Criminology*	Dr Toni Makkai	Mr Max Kwiatkowski (Research Assistant)
Australian Institute of Family Studies*	Prof. Alan Hayes	Ms Grace Soriano (Senior Research Officer)
Australian Institute of Health and Welfare*	Dr Penny Allbon	Ms Ilona Brockway (Population Health Unit)
Australian National University	Prof. Lawrence Cram	Ms Sophie Holloway (Manager, Australian Social Science Data Archives)
Central Queensland University	Prof. Jennelle Kyd	Mr Graham Black (Director)
Centre for Mental Health Services Research*	Dr Duane Pennebaker	Dr Duane Pennebaker (Executive Director)
Centrelink*	TBA	TBA
Charles Darwin University	Prof. Robert Wasson	Ms Fiona Steele (Assistant Manager)
Charles Sturt University	Prof. Paul Burnett	Ms Dianne Couper (Secretary)
Commonwealth Grants Commission*	Mr John Spasojevic	Mr Gautam Biswas (Director)
Curtin University of Technology	Professor Linda Kristjanson	Ms Allison Taylor (Personal Assistant)
Deakin University	Prof. David Stokes	Ms Jill Dalton (Executive Assistant)
Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care*	Mr Brendan O'Reilly	Dr Qingsheng Zhou (Director)
Department of Education, Science and Training*	Ms Lisa Paul	Mr Cezary Kapuscinski
Department of Employment and Workplace Relations*	Dr Peter Boxall	Ms Thea Moyes (Librarian)

Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs*	Dr Jeff Harmer	Mr Graeme Thompson (ABS Outposted Officer)
Department on Finance and Administration*	Dr Ian Watt	Mr Nhat Nguyen
Department of Health and Ageing*	Ms Jane Halton	Ms Michelle Marquardt (ABS Outposted Officer)
Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources*	Ms Patricia Kelly	Dr Jon Kendall (Manager, Economic Analysis)
Department of Parliamentary Services*	Ms Hilary Penfold	Ms Melissa Riches (Executive Assistant)
Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet*	Ms Jennifer Goddard	Ms Annette Lancy (Adviser)
Department of Transport and Regional Services*	Mr Michael Taylor	Ms Leanne Johnson (Regional Research Leader)
Disability Services Queensland*	Ms Linda Apelt	Ms Kathy Reed (Acting Principal Project Officer)
Edith Cowan University	Prof. Patrick Garnett	Ms Agnes Noronha (Senior Librarian)
Flinders University	Prof. Chris Marlin	Ms Kylie Lange (Statistical Consultant, Information Services Division)
Geoscience Australia*	Dr Neil Williams	Ms Anita Dwyer (Research Scientist)
Griffith University	Prof. Janice Rickards	Mr Martin Borchert (Associate Director, Access Services)
Housing Industry Association*	Dr Ron Silberberg	Kirsten Lewis (Admin. Officer)
La Trobe University	Prof. Erich Weigold	Ms Marian Obenchain (Manager, Research and Graduate Studies Office)
Macquarie University	Prof. James Piper	Bill Stinson (Academic Outreach Librarian)
MDS Market Data Systems Pty Ltd*	Dr Otto Hellwig	Dr Otto Hellwig (Director)
Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research*	Prof. Frank Larkins	Ms Anne Ritter (Database Manager)
Monash University	Prof Maxwell King	Ms Prisca Cradick
Murdoch University	Prof. Andris Stelbovics	Mr Paul Flatau (Senior Lecturer, Economics)
National Cancer Control Initiative*	Ms Leah Collins	Prof. Brian McAvoy (Deputy Director)
National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling (NATSEM)*	Prof. Ann Harding	Ms Lyndall Carey (Information Officer)
National Institute for Economic & Industry Research *	Dr Peter Brain	Ms Jane Cunningham (Statistician)
NCVER*	Dr Tom Karmel	Ms Miriam Saunders (Manager)
New South Wales Attorney-General's Department*	Mr Timothy McGrath	Dr Donald Weatherburn (Director - Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research)
New South Wales Department of Housing*	Mr Terry Barnes	Mr Shan Shanmugamany (Senior Housing Analyst)
New South Wales Department of Health*	Ms Robyn Kruk	Bronwyn Scott (Acting Manager)
Office of The Shadow Treasurer*	Mr Matthew Linden	Mr Matthew Linden (Chief of Staff)
Pathfinder Solutions*	Mr Graeme Neville	Mr David McCloskey (Director)

Productivity Commission*	Mr Garth Pitkethly or Mr Michael Kirby	Ms Lyn Tucker (ABS Outposted Officer)
Public Health Information Development Unit*	Mr John Glover	Mr John Glover (Director)
Queensland Department of Education, Training and the Arts*	Ms Rachel Hunter	Mr Peter Hagan (Director Labour Market Research Unit)
Queensland Health*	Mr Stephen Duckett	Ms Michelle Dinh (Acting Senior Analyst)
Queensland University of Technology	Prof. Arun Sharma	Mr Michael McArdle (Manager, Research Office)
RDA Research*	Mr Robert Dommett	Mr Robert Dommett (Technical Director)
Reserve Bank of Australia*	Mr Glenn Stevens	Ms Laura Berger-Thomson (Senior Economist)
RMIT University	Prof. Neil Furlong	Ms Sophie James (Executive Assistant)
South Australian Department of Health*	Mr Jim Birch	Mr Graeme Tucker (Head, Population Research and Outcomes Studies Unit)
South Australian Centre for Economic Studies*	Mr Michael O'Neil	Mr Jim Hancock (Deputy Director)
Southern Cross University	Prof. Peter Baverstock	Robyn Anderson (Manager)
Swinburne University of Technology	Prof. Kerry Pratt	Mr Alex Buick (Research Data Manager)
Tasmanian Department of Health and Human Services*	Dr Martyn Forrest	Mr Michael Long (Statistical Consultant)
Tourism Australia*	Mr Paul Fairweather	Miss Kathryn Galliano (Analyst)
Treasury*	Dr Ken Henry	Mr Phil Gallagher (Director, Retirement and Income Modelling Unit)
University of Adelaide	Prof. Alan Johnson	Ms Felicity Cheek (Administrative Officer)
University of Canberra	Prof. Stephen Parker	Ms Lyndall Carey (Information Officer)
University of Melbourne	Prof. John McKenzie	Mrs Anne Ritter (Database Manager, Households Research Unit)
University of New England	Prof. Peter Flood	Dr Neil Argent (Senior Lecturer)
University of New South Wales	Prof. Les Field	Mr Hart Devitt (Research Officer)
University of Newcastle	Prof. Barney Glover	Ms Kirsten Neilson (Project Officer)
University of Queensland	Prof. David Siddle	Ms Karen Borchardt (Manager, Business, Economics and Law Faculty Library Service)
University of South Australia	Prof. Caroline McMillen	Ms Sally Carpenter (Coordinator, Research Services)
University of Sydney	Prof Merlin Crossley	Philippa Crosbie (Social Sciences Librarian)
University of Tasmania	Prof. Allan Canty	Ms Laura Denholm (Research and Development Office)
University of Technology, Sydney	Prof. Susan Rowley	Ms Ann Flynn (Manager)
University of Western Australia	Prof. Doug McEachern	Mr Will Hamilton (Librarian)
University of Western Sydney	Prof. John Ingleson	Dr Jane Hobson (Manager, Research Policy and Planning)

University of Wollongong	Prof. Margaret Sheil	Mrs Carol Woolley (Document Delivery Coordinator)
Victorian Department of Human Services*	Ms Fran Thorn	Ms Connie Spinoso (Manager)
Victorian Department of Premier and Cabinet*	Mr Michael Deegan	Ms Nancy Savic (CURF Contact Officer)
Victorian Department of Sustainability and Environment*	Ms Sue Jaquinot	Ms Christine Kilmartin (Manager)
Victoria University	Prof. Greg Baxter	Margarita Kumnick (Research Information Co-ordinator)
Victorian Department of Treasury and Finance*	Mr Grant Hehir	Dr David Johnson (Director)
WA Department of Health*	Dr Neale Fong	Mr Glenn Draper (Senior Research Officer)

RELATED LINKS:

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The Responsible Access to CURFs Training Manual is compulsory reading for all ABS CURF users prior to gaining access to CURFs.

This Manual explains to all ABS CURF users what their role is in protecting the confidentiality of ABS microdata.

The most recent version of the Manual is the March 2005 edition. A new edition will be published later in 2006.

Download this entire document in Acrobat format:

Responsible Access to ABS CURFs Training Manual, Edition 2, March 2005



Responsible Access to ABS CURFs Training Manual_Mar05.pdf (364Kb)

[If you do not have reader software...](#)

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- Access to ABS CURFs involves a number of legal responsibilities and commitments on the part of the user. These obligations are provided for in the CURF Application and Undertaking form.
- Before completing an Application and Undertaking form, users must read the [Responsible Access to ABS CURFs Training Manual](#).
- A declaration of the proposed statistical use of the CURF (and the likely application, outputs and outcomes arising from its use) must be provided in the Schedule to the Undertaking.
- This information is given consideration by the Australian Statistician, who will then make a decision about whether an organisation or an individual can be given access to the requested CURF.
- The Application and Undertaking form must be signed and submitted to the ABS by the contact officer in the organisation.
- Access to unit record data is for approved statistical purposes with the organisation only.
- If an individual user changes organisations they must surrender access to all CURFs and ABS must be notified of the change 10 working days prior to departure.

For penalties resulting from a breach of obligations in the CURF Application and Undertaking form see [Penalties for Breaching the CURF Undertaking](#).

Penalties for Breaching the CURF Undertaking

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Subsection 19 (3) of the Census and Statistics Act 1905 provides that a person who fails to comply with an undertaking given by that person in respect of a CURF is guilty of an indictable offence, punishable on conviction by a fine of 120 penalty units (\$13,200) or imprisonment for two years, or both.

Users should also note that any inappropriate activity relating to the use or custody of an ABS CURF may jeopardise any future applications for access to ABS CURFs by the individual user and/or the organisation.

Activities which could be in breach of an undertaking given in relation to a CURF would include the following:

- Failure to properly secure the CURF against loss or unauthorised access
- Use of the CURF for purposes other than the approved 'statistical purposes'
- Any attempt to identify particular persons or organisations included in the CURF data
- Access to the CURF by persons other than those who have ABS approved access via a signed undertaking
- Use of the CURF for data matching against any other file without the express permission of the ABS
- On-provision of CURF data in models or reports etc without the prior approval of the ABS.

Additionally, use of a CURF provided under the Agreement between the ABS and the Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee (AVCC) for purposes other than research, teaching and non income-generating purposes would be in breach of that Agreement.

If, at any time, you are unsure about your compliance with the CURF Undertaking, please contact microdata.access@abs.gov.au

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These prices apply to all CURFs listed in the [List of Available CURFs](#).

Current CURF prices	
CURF Access Type	Base Price (including GST)
Basic CURF via CD-ROM	\$1320
Basic CURF via Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL)	\$1320
Expanded CURF via RADL	\$1320
Basic CURF via CD-ROM/RADL and Expanded CURF (if available) via RADL	\$1980 (all formats bundled price for single application ONLY)
Consultant	\$435 (all formats) - per project
Specialist or other CURF via the ABS Site Data Laboratory (ABSDL)	Price on application

The CURF price is \$1320 (including GST) per CURF access type (e.g. \$1320 to access the Basic CURF via CD-ROM and/or RADL, or \$1320 to access the Expanded CURF via RADL).

A bundled price of \$1980 (including GST) is available where clients request access to both the Basic (whether on CD-ROM or RADL) and Expanded CURFs in one single application. This "bundled" price is available because the ABS' costs of processing a single application for multiple access modes is less than that for processing two applications for two access types. The bundled price is, of course, subject to the CURF requested being available in both Basic and Expanded formats. Some CURFs are available in just one mode (eg Expanded on RADL).

Subsequent requests for different access modes for CURFs that have already been processed will be charged the base price of \$1320. For example, the price will be \$1320 for a request to access an Expanded CURF for which access has already been granted to the Basic CURF. No bundling will be available.

Please note that the CURF price is the price to access a CURF per organisation, not per user. There is no increase in price for approved multiple users of a CURF in an organisation, nor is there a limit to the number of approved users who can access a CURF within any organisation.

ABS will invoice organisations for the appropriate amount.

Participating universities can access Basic or Expanded CURFs under the current [ABS/AVCC CURF Agreement](#).

For pricing queries, please contact microdata.access@abs.gov.au.

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The ABS will consider a proposal for a sector specific arrangement to access CURFs where there is a body that is representative of a sector that wishes to facilitate the arrangement under the ABS required terms and conditions.

If you have a proposal for a sector agreement you would like to discuss, please contact microdata.access@abs.gov.au.

The ABS currently has an agreement with the Australian University sector. For more information, please see [ABS/AVCC CURF Agreement](#) and [Services for Universities](#).

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THE ANNUAL RENEWAL POLICY

As part of the approval and administrative arrangements to access CURFs, the ABS CURF Management Unit (CMU) has implemented a process to contact each organisation's Responsible Officer and Contact Officer annually to renew access to all approved CURFs held by that organisation.

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ABOUT THE PROCESS

The CMU will send the CURF Contact Officer an Annual Renewal form for an Organisation which includes a complete list of CURFs approved for use in their organisation and a complete list of registered users using the CURFs on CD-ROM and/or via the Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL).

The organisation's Contact Officer is required to check the lists of CURFs and users and confirm on behalf of the Responsible Officer that:

- the CURFs are still in use by the organisation, and are being kept secure;
- all registered users are still members of the organisation; and
- all registered users are still using the CURFs.

The Contact Officer must obtain from each individual user a report of how the CURFs have been used over the preceding twelve months, including citations for publications, journal articles etc.

The completed Renewal Information is to be sent, in hard copy and by email to the ABS [CURF access contacts](#).

If Organisational access to specific CURFs is no longer required, the original CD-ROMs must be returned to the ABS, under secure conditions, or RADL access removed, and any copies of the CURF data destroyed.

The Annual Renewal forms for an Organisation require the signature of the Responsible Officer.

More information about Individuals' obligations in the Annual Renewal process is available on the [Frequently Asked Questions About CURFs - Annual Renewal of CURFs](#) page.

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THE OUTCOMES OF ANNUAL RENEWAL

When the CMU has completed processing the Annual Renewal forms from an Organisation, there are two key outcomes.

1. The CMU will advise the Responsible Officer and Contact Officer that the access to the Organisation's CURFs for registered individuals has been renewed for a further twelve months.

Failure by Organisations or Individuals to comply with ABS administrative requirements may result in the withdrawal of access to CURFs.

2. CMU will publish on this site a list of all research undertaken in the past year using CURF microdata, using the bibliographical information provided by Individuals during the Annual Renewals process. For more information, see the [Frequently Asked Questions About CURFs - Annual Renewal of CURFs](#) page. You can view comprehensive lists of CURF research in the 'Published Research Using CURF Microdata' link in the navigator at left.



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The ABS will not generally release CURF data to overseas applicants. However, the ABS will consider, on a case-by-case basis, overseas applications to access CURFs via the ABS Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL). To be considered, overseas applicants must generally be affiliated with an Australian university or government department, or their country's National Statistical Office (such as the US Census Bureau, Statistics New Zealand, Statistics Canada etc.).

The ABS can not guarantee that a CURF application from an overseas applicant will be approved. Release of CURFs to any organisation, Australian or otherwise, is always at the discretion of the Australian Statistician.

A list of National Statistical Offices can be accessed here: http://www.census.gov/main/www/stat_int.html

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Statistical Agencies (International)


- Afghanistan [Central Statistics Office](#) 
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- Andorra [Department of Studies and Statistics](#) (In Catalan Only) 
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A CURF contains responses made by individuals or organisations to an ABS survey with all identifying information removed. That is, names and addresses are removed, along with any unusual combinations of responses that may lead to a person's or organisation's identity being derived. Details of the survey data available from each CURF are listed in its accompanying Technical Paper. CURFs are the most detailed data available from the ABS and are thus subject to strict terms of use.

More information about CURFs is available on the [What is CURF Microdata](#) page.

This page first published 27 April 2007

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CURFs are unit record files from which all identifiers have been removed. Identifiers may include details such as names and addresses. In addition, it is generally necessary for the ABS to alter the records to prevent the identification of survey participants who have a rare mix of responses. All CURFs are thoroughly checked to ensure all data has been confidentialised prior to their release.

More information about CURFs is available on the [What is CURF Microdata](#) page.

This page first published 27 April 2007

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CURFs are used to undertake data manipulations requiring individual unit record data reflecting the diversity within a population. Some typical applications include production of papers, journal articles, books, PhD theses, microsimulation, modelling and conducting detailed analyses.

Data contained in a CURF is also used for producing detailed tabulations requiring data in a disaggregated form.

The ABS releases annual lists of [published research using CURF Microdata](#). The information is compiled from annual renewal information provided to the ABS by CURF users.

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For details on CURF pricing, please refer to the [CURF Prices](#) page.

Participating universities can access Basic or Expanded CURFs under the current [ABS/AVCC CURF Agreement](#).

This page first published 27 April 2007

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Access to a CURF is for a period of twelve months with the option for extension.

Each year, as part of the [CURF Annual Renewal Process](#), an organisation's Contact Officer will contact each individual User to confirm whether CURFs are still required and for what purpose. Individuals are also requested to provide the ABS with a brief report on how the CURFs have been used for the [Published research using CURF Microdata](#) bibliography. Extension of access beyond 12 months is dependent on participation in the annual renewal process.

More information about how annual renewals affect individual users is available on the FAQ page under Annual Renewals.

This page first published 27 April 2007, last updated 26 June 2007

Frequently Asked Questions - About CURFs - What software is needed to access CURFs?

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CURF microdata on CD-ROM is provided in SAS, Stata and SPSS formats and can be loaded to various spreadsheets. SAS, Stata and SPSS software is also available on the [Remote Access Data Laboratory \(RADL\)](#). Other software packages will be evaluated by the ABS for inclusion if there is sufficient user demand. SAS, Stata and SPSS test files for each CURF are available to check syntax prior to submission of code to the RADL.

This page first published 27 April 2007

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CURF data on CD-ROM and in [Remote Access Data Laboratory \(RADL\)](#) is available in SAS, Stata and SPSS formats and can be loaded to various spreadsheets. If clients do not have knowledge of these applications, they are advised to seek guidance and expertise within their organisation prior to using the CURF data.

The individual data items have fixed positions within each record of the file. If there is more than one unit type on the file, the file will be organised hierarchically.

An extensive documentation file is provided for each CURF and includes a list of data items with their start positions and lengths, code values and category labels. The documentation also provides weighted and unweighted frequencies of each code value.

Clients with software other than SAS, Stata or SPSS will need to write their own programs using SAS, Stata and SPSS as a guide. A computer programmer will usually be required to re-format the data.

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To apply for a CURF you need to determine the following:

1. What CURF do I need? Is it available? Refer to the [List of Available CURFs and Contents](#)
2. Does my organisation already access CURFs? Refer to [CURF Responsible and Contact Officers](#)
3. Who is my Responsible and Contact Officer? Refer to list of [CURF Responsible and Contact Officers](#)
4. What forms do I need to fill out to apply for a CURF? Refer to [CURF Application and Undertaking Forms](#).
5. What are my responsibilities when using CURF data? All CURF users must read the '[Responsible Access to ABS CURFs Training Manual](#)' prior to applying for access to CURFs.
6. Under the existing ABS/AVCC CURF Agreement, CURFs are available to [ABS/AVCC Participating Universities](#) on CD-ROM and through the ABS [Remote Access Data Laboratory \(RADL\)](#). Universities do not currently have access to ABS Site Data Laboratories (ABSDL) under the ABS/AVCC CURF Agreement.
7. All RADL CURF users must read the [Remote Access Data Laboratory \(RADL\) User Guide](#) (cat. no. 1406.0.55.002) prior to submitting jobs.

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To find out whether your organisation already accesses CURFs, please check the list of organisations on the [CURF Responsible and Contact Officers](#) page. All organisations listed have been approved to access CURFs.

If your organisation has not previously been approved by the ABS to access CURFs, a [Responsible Officer Undertaking \(ROU1\)](#) form must accompany the [Individual User Undertaking \(IUU1\)](#) and [Request to Access a CURF form \(REQ1\)](#). The Responsible Officer must delegate a Contact Officer to whom the ABS will refer CURF enquiries.

More information on Responsible Officers and Contact Officers is available from the [Frequently Asked Questions about CURFs](#) page, under the Applying for CURFs category.

This page first published 27 April 2007

Frequently Asked Questions - Who can access CURFs? - Can I apply for an ABS CURF if my Organisation/University does not already have access?

No. You cannot apply for an ABS CURF if your organisation has not already been given access to the required CURFs.

To apply for ABS CURFs your organisation must already have access to the CURFs or must request access to the CURFs.

Each individual CURF user and the organisation itself must be approved to access CURFs by the ABS. This requires each organisation to appoint a CURF Responsible Officer and a CURF Contact Officer. Both the Responsible Officer and Individual Authorised Users must sign a legally binding Undertaking. A breach of the Undertaking can result in a fine or imprisonment or both. The [Penalties for Breaching the CURF Undertaking](#) page provides more information about this.

To find out how to apply for access to ABS CURFs please visit the [Applying for CURF Microdata Pages](#).

This page first published 20 September 2007, last updated 4 July 2008

Frequently Asked Questions - Applying for CURFs - Who can qualify as a Responsible Officer?

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Access to all ABS products & statistics
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Economy
Environment & Energy
Industry
People
Regional
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In a government Department, the Responsible Officer must be a Secretary of Department or equivalent head of organisation, as agreed with the ABS. In practice this requires that a release to a Department or Authority must be signed by the Secretary of the Department or in the case of an Authority the equivalent Head of the Authority.

In a private sector organisation, the Responsible Officer must be someone who has the same legal responsibility for the actions of the organisation as a Departmental Secretary does for a Department. This will usually be someone with the status of CEO, Company Secretary or Managing Director.

In a University, the Responsible Officer must be a Vice-Chancellor, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Deputy Vice-Chancellor or University Registrar.

Click here to view a list of current [CURF Responsible and Contact Officers](#).

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Frequently Asked Questions - Applying for CURFs - What is the role of the Contact Officer?

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Each organisation requires a CURF Contact Officer to administer Applications and Undertakings on behalf of its members and to assist the organisation's Responsible Officer. The Contact Officer role includes:

- signing and submitting completed Individual Application and Undertaking forms to the ABS
- taking delivery of Basic CURF CD-ROMs
- keeping Basic CURF CD-ROMs secure
- maintaining a list of Basic CD-ROM and Expanded RADL CURFs currently approved for use in the organisation
- returning Basic CURF CD-ROMs to the ABS when they are no longer required
- coordinating the annual CURF renewal processes
- liaising with the organisation's Responsible Officer and Individual Users
- liaising with the ABS on behalf of the organisation's authorised Users
- arranging payment on behalf of the organisation, and
- coordinating the organisation's involvement in [periodic compliance audits](#).

Click here to view a list of current [CURF Responsible and Contact Officers](#).

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Frequently Asked Questions - Applying for CURFs - Who is an Authorised User?

All Statistics

Access to all ABS products & statistics

National Statistics

Australia's Population

Key National Indicators

Census Data

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Selected information & statistics on a range of topics.

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Authorised Users are those individuals who have had a CURF Individual User Application and Undertaking approved by the ABS. Typically, Authorised Users are students or staff members of a university, or members of an organisation.

For more information please see the [CURF Application and Undertaking Forms](#) page and relevant links from that page.

This page first published 27 April 2007

Frequently Asked Questions - Applying for CURFs - What is meant by 'Statistical Purpose' on the application forms?

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When applying for a CURF Individuals are required to provide the ABS with a 'Statistical Purpose' detailing the way that the data will be used in statistical analysis.

Examples of statistical purposes are:

- manipulation of the data to produce means, correlations or other descriptive or summary measures
- estimation of population characteristics
- use of data as input to mathematical models or for other types of analysis (for example, factor analysis)
- providing graphical or pictorial representations of the characteristics of the population or subsets of the population.

Statistical purposes provided on Individual Application and Undertaking forms must include sufficient detail for the ABS to understand the use of the data and all expected output in all mediums.

Any third party access or involvement with the CURF data should also be described in the application, or subsequently if further outcomes develop over time. Contact microdata.access@abs.gov.au with such information, or if you require guidance.

Frequently Asked Questions - Applying for CURFs - Where do I send my application form?

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The organisation's Contact Officer should send original, completed Application and Undertaking forms to:

The Director
Microdata Access Strategies Section
Australian Bureau of Statistics
Locked Bag 10
Belconnen ACT 2616

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Frequently Asked Questions - Applying for CURFs - Can I return the form electronically?

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No. As the Application and Undertaking are legal documents, originals must be submitted. Email versions, faxes or photocopies of the Application and Undertaking forms will not be accepted.

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Frequently Asked Questions - Applying for CURFs - How long does the application process take?

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Contact Officers and Individuals will be advised of the CURF application outcome within four weeks. To check the progress of your application please contact the Microdata Access Strategies Section on microdata.access@abs.gov.au or call 02 6252 7714.

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Up to five CURFs can be listed on a 'Request for Access to a CURF' (REQ1) form.

If additional CURFs are required complete a 'Request For Access To A CURF' (REQ2) form and attach it to (REQ1).

Your REQ1 form must only be accompanied by an IUU1 form if you do not currently have access to CURFs in the organisation for which you are working.

For more information, refer to [CURF Application and Undertaking Forms](#).

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Frequently Asked Questions - Applying for CURFs - Can overseas clients apply for CURFs?

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ABS will consider requests to access RADL CURFs from individuals based overseas on a case by case basis. For more information, please refer to [Overseas Access to CURFs](#).

This page first published 27 April 2007

Frequently Asked Questions - Applying for CURFs - Do supervisors need to fill in an Individual User Application & Undertaking form?

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Yes. If in supervising a research project you will be examining unit record information from the CURF, you are required to submit an Individual User Application and Undertaking (IUU1) form, along with a Request to Access CURFs form (REQ1).

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Frequently Asked Questions - Obligations, Liabilities and Penalties - How can I use a CURF?

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Organisations and individuals seeking access to CURFs are required to sign a legally binding Undertaking ensuring that they will:

- use the data only for the statistical purposes specified
- not attempt to identify particular persons or organisations
- not disclose, either directly or indirectly, the data to any other person or organisation other than members of their organisation who have been separately approved by the ABS to have individual access to the information
- not attempt to match, with or without using identifiers, the data with any other list of persons or organisations
- in relation to data made available via the Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL) or the ABS Data Laboratory (ABSDL), access the data only in a manner specifically authorised in writing by the ABS
- not attempt to access the data after the term of their authorisation expires, or after their authorisation is rescinded by the organisation which provided it, or after they cease to be a member of that organisation

Please contact microdata.access@abs.gov.au if you require further guidance regarding acceptable use of CURFs.

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CURFs are released at the discretion of the Australian Statistician after an intensive assessment process conducted by the ABS Micro-data Review Panel. CURFs may be released on CD-ROM, via the Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL) or through the ABS Data Laboratory (ABSDL), depending on the level of detail provided in the file.

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Access to a CURF is granted to an organisation at the discretion of the Australian Statistician. A precondition of organisational access is that the Australian Statistician has been provided with a legally binding Undertaking setting out the Terms and Conditions under which the access is approved.

This page first published 27 April 2007

Frequently Asked Questions - Obligations, Liabilities and Penalties - What are the penalties for breaching the CURF Undertakings?

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The ABS applies a range of administrative penalties depending on the level of misuse involves. The penalties affect individual researchers in a very material way.

The penalties also send a clear message to the research community at large about the importance that the ABS places on maintaining the confidentiality and privacy of the individuals who have provided the data, and also of the Bureau's vigilance in these matters.

Further information on penalties relating to breaches of the Undertaking is available on the [Penalties for Breaching the CURF Undertaking](#) page.

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Frequently Asked Questions - Obligations, Liabilities and Penalties - Can I share CURFs with other persons?

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No. The Undertaking between the ABS and the CURF User states that CURF data cannot be disclosed either directly or indirectly to any person or organisation.

This page first published 27 April 2007

Frequently Asked Questions - Obligations, Liabilities and Penalties - Can I share statistical output from a CURF?

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Tables or other aggregated output (for example, averages, model parameters) released as 'general output' via the Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL) or developed as output by users of CD-ROM CURFs may be disclosed or disseminated by the user.

Certain output from RADL may be labelled as 'Keep Secure'. This classification requires that the output be treated as highly confidential at all times. 'Keep Secure' output includes any printouts of unit record information, as well as analytical output that has been designated as 'Keep Secure'.

RADL 'Keep Secure' output cannot be shared between users who do not have access to the source CURF, nor with users in other organisations whether or not they do have access to the CURF. Such output may be used in further analysis, but cannot be published.

All Analytical results labelled as 'Keep Secure', whether they include unit information or not, must be stored in a secure environment. All such printouts should be kept under lock and key, and electronic output must be stored in password protected systems.

RADL 'Keep Secure' printouts must be securely destroyed (ie shredded) when no longer needed, and analytical output (whether or not it includes unit record information) held in an intranet must be deleted. Deletion must happen in such a way that recovery is not possible by unauthorised people.

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Frequently Asked Questions - Obligations, Liabilities and Penalties - What is a RADL audit and will I be involved?

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Audits of jobs submitted to RADL are conducted throughout the year by the ABS. The purpose of these audits is to identify confidentiality issues within users' code, log or output files. These issues may arise through users failing to follow, accidentally or otherwise, restrictions or rules for using RADL.

For each job that is audited, the code, log and output files are manually inspected by ABS staff. If a confidentiality issue is identified, the user in question will be notified by email. Users are required to cooperate with any ABS audit directions in respect to their code and output.

Further information on restrictions and rules for RADL use can be found in the [Remote Access Data Laboratory \(RADL\) User Guide](#) (Cat no. 1406.0.55.002).

It is also a requirement in the Individual User Undertaking (IUU1) that individual users comply with direction or requirement specified in the [ABS Responsible Access to ABS Confidentialised Unit Record Files \(CURFs\) Training Manual](#)

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CURF microdata Users should be aware that their organisation's Responsible Officer has signed an [Undertaking](#) specifying that ABS officers or their nominated representatives are allowed access to all necessary documents and information for the purposes of conducting a compliance audit concerning the observance of the terms and conditions under which information is disclosed by ABS.

This audit is undertaken periodically by the ABS with a number of organisations audited on each occasion. The auditors will visit to discuss the organisation's internal arrangements for managing access to CURFs. As part of the visit the auditor will speak with CURF users about their understanding of the ABS conditions for CURF usage. The visit is also an opportunity for users to provide feedback to the ABS and to make suggestions for improvements to CURF data or associated procedures.

The audit does not generally involve checking data files or an organisation's IT systems.

It is also a requirement in the Individual User Undertaking (IUU1) that individual users comply with the directions or requirements specified in the [ABS Responsible Access to ABS Confidentialised Unit Record Files \(CURFs\) Training Manual](#)

This page first published 27 April 2007, last updated 2 May 2007

Frequently Asked Questions - Obligations, Liabilities and Penalties - How do I cite the CURFs I have used in my research?

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Information or data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics must be acknowledged responsibly whenever it is used. Citing, or referencing, is important for several reasons, including acknowledging that one has used the ideas, words or data of others. Accurately citing sources used also allows others to find and use the original information.

For information on how to cite CURFs please refer to [Guide to Citing ABS Sources](#).

This page first published 27 April 2007, last updated 3 September 2007

Frequently Asked Questions - Obligations, Liabilities and Penalties - Does the ABS guarantee that CURF data and systems are free from errors?

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The ABS does not warrant that the CD-ROM or RADL Service or the information sourced from the Service is free from errors. The ABS will not be in any way liable for any loss, damage or injury suffered by You, or any other person consequent upon the use of the Service or the information sourced from the Service.

This page first published 27 April 2007

Frequently Asked Questions - Obligations, Liabilities and Penalties - What is the ABS liability position regarding CURF microdata?

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Except to the extent that liability may not be lawfully excluded, the ABS:

a) makes no warranty as to the suitability or fitness of the CURF for a particular purpose, or quality, accuracy or merchantability of the CURF;

and

b) accepts no liability arising from the use of the CURF.

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Frequently Asked Questions - Obligations, Liabilities and Penalties - What are the limited licence provisions to use a CURF and what copyright information do I need to know?

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Intellectual Property Rights in the CURF, including copyright in the CURF, are owned by the Commonwealth of Australia represented by the ABS. Copyright notices appearing on the CURF, or on information displayed or printed by the CURF must not be removed. For further information refer to [Licensed Distributors of ABS Data](#).

The organisation is granted a non exclusive, non transferable license by the ABS for the Authorised Users to use the CURF for statistical purposes as authorised by the ABS in accordance with the Undertaking.

Any publication of data and analysis of the CURF must cite the Australian Bureau of Statistics as the source of the data and include a prominently displayed notice that the results or views expressed are those of the author, and not necessarily those of the ABS. More information about citing CURFs in published output is available on the [Do I have to cite the CURFs I have used in my research?](#) section of the [Frequently Asked Questions about CURFs](#) page.

This page first published 27 April 2007, last updated 26 June 2007

Frequently Asked Questions - ABS/AVCC CURF Agreement - Is my University part of the ABS/AVCC CURF Agreement?

All Statistics

Access to all ABS products & statistics

National Statistics

Australia's Population

Key National Indicators

Census Data

Consumer Price Index

Labour Force

National Accounts

Regional Statistics

Selected information with a regional focus

Main Areas - by Name

Main Areas - by Map

Key Products

Australian Social Trends

Measures of Australia's Progress

Australian Year Books

Australian Economic Indicators

Papers and Articles

Themes

Selected information & statistics on a range of topics.

Economy

Environment & Energy

Industry

People

Regional

International Statistics

Statistical Agencies & Related Sites

Not all Australian universities are party to the ABS/AVCC CURF Agreement. Refer to the list of [ABS/AVCC Participating Universities](#) to see if your university is involved.

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Frequently Asked Questions - ABS/AVCC CURF Agreement - What if my University is not part of the ABS/AVCC CURF Agreement?

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Australian universities not currently participating are welcome to enter into the ABS/AVCC CURF Agreement. For more information contact the Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee at avcc@avcc.edu.au

Universities not party to the ABS/AVCC CURF Agreement can purchase CURFs at the current ABS list price. See the [CURF Prices](#) page for details

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Frequently Asked Questions - ABS/AVCC CURF Agreement - How can a CURF obtained under the ABS/AVCC Agreement be used?

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Under the ABS/AVCC CURF Agreement CURFs may only be used for teaching and research purposes. They are available to staff and students of the university only. Staff and students within the university wishing to use a CURF must submit an Individual User Application and Undertaking via their University's Contact Officer for approval by the ABS before using the CURF.

A CURF can only be used for approved statistical purposes and there are serious penalties for breaches of the User Application and Undertaking. For a definition of statistical purposes and obligations of CURF use please refer to [Applying for CURF Microdata](#).

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Frequently Asked Questions - ABS/AVCC CURF Agreement - What uses are prohibited in the Undertaking for university users?

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In addition to uses prohibited in The [Undertaking](#), university authorised Users are expressly prohibited from using the CURF:

- a) in the pursuit of any commercial or income generating venture either privately, or under the auspices of the University.
- b) to alter, decompile, disassemble or otherwise dispose of the data contained in the CURF.

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Frequently Asked Questions - ABS/AVCC CURF Agreement - Can I use research conclusions for commercial purposes?

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No. The ABS entered into the Agreement with the AVCC to provide public use CURF data to universities to support research and teaching purposes only. Consequently, the ABS acknowledges that research conclusions derived from analysis and transformation of the statistical content of a CURF will be published in journals, publications, theses and research papers and reports.

The incorporation of research conclusions derived from analysis and transformation of the statistical content of a CURF into publications, models or consultancies for the purpose of deriving income is considered commercial and is not permitted under the ABS/AVCC CURF Agreement.

If you are in any doubt as to whether your intended use of a CURF is authorised you must contact microdata.access@abs.gov.au before putting the CURF to that particular use.

This page first published 27 April 2007

Frequently Asked Questions - ABS/AVCC CURF Agreement - Can I use a CURF obtained under the ABS/AVCC Agreement as the basis for applying for an ARC or NHMRC grant?

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Yes. As long as your university is a party to the ABS/AVCC CURF Agreement and the CURF is acquired to support a pure research project funded by the ARC and/or the NHMRC.

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Frequently Asked Questions - ABS/AVCC CURF Agreement - Can I use CURF obtained under the ABS/AVCC Agreement for an externally funded research project?

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The ABS/AVCC CURF Agreement provides for CURFs to be made available to University-based researchers to support research and teaching activities. CURFs obtained under the ABS/AVCC Agreement cannot be used for externally funded research. The researcher must meet the cost for CURFs required for any such commercial or income-generating projects.

However, ABS would be pleased to discuss the particular needs of researchers. Please contact microdata.access@abs.gov.au with details of your project and the Microdata Access Strategies team will advise whether an ABS/AVCC CURF may be appropriate.

This page first published 27 April 2007, last updated 27 July 2007

Frequently Asked Questions - Annual Renewal of CURFs - Why do I need to renew access to CURFs?

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The CURF Annual Renewal process is a condition of access to CURFs.

It allows Users to extend their access to approved CURFs for another year. If there has been any significant change of direction in your research from your original stated statistical purpose you should advise the ABS at the time of renewal for each relevant CURF. The renewal process also enables Users to advise their CURF Contact Officer if they do not require access to specific CURFs any longer.

An important part of the renewal process is to provide a description of how you have used the CURF in the reporting period, including citations for any published output. This information helps the ABS understand how CURF data is being used to support research and can assist the ABS regarding the potential future data collection requirements of users.

The information you provide about publications, conference papers and journal articles that have used CURF data is published on the ABS website for the information of other interested CURF data users. This information also helps identify potential consultants with expertise in specific CURF data sources. See [Published Research Using CURF Microdata](#).

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Frequently Asked Questions - Annual Renewal of CURFs - How do I renew access to CURFs?

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Your organisation's Contact Officer will email you a form listing your current approved CURF access. You will need to confirm your intention to continue accessing each CURF for a further 12 months and describe in detail the research activities, outputs etc for each CURF.

Refer to information below for a guide on what should be included in your response to your Contact Officer.

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Frequently Asked Questions - Annual Renewal of CURFs - What happens if I do not renew access to CURFs?

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Failure to complete the Annual Renewal process in the required time may result in the withdrawal of access to CURFs for Individuals Users and/or Organisations.

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Frequently Asked Questions - Annual Renewal of CURFs - Do I need to renew if I have only had access to a CURF for a short period of time?

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Yes. Even if you haven't started using the data you still need to participate in your organisation's Annual Renewal for that year and fill in a renewal form. A description of use must be provided to the Organisation's Contact Officer on request.

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Frequently Asked Questions - Annual Renewal of CURFs - What do I write in my description of use?

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When completing renewal forms, the description of use should contain information on how each CURF has been used in the previous year, including published output. Work in progress should also be described, including input to models, ARC or NHMRC Grants in progress etc. Any significant change of research activities from your original "Statistical Purpose" must be identified.

If a CURF has not been used to date, but will be, a notation "No use to date" can be entered on the renewal form.

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